

• **Why 'rido' persists in Maguindanao** Across • **Taal's not-so-hidden wonders** • Bangkok: Temple to grandeur and gourmet finds • **Bloom Britannia** • **Serving Manny** • **Mick Jagger** • **Queen Sofia**—takes of a hotel GM • The 'next Hedi Slimane' comes to Manila **SUNDAY LIFESTYLE** • **KC defines 'Mr. Right'** • **Lovers in Prague** **ENTERTAINMENT**

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER

BALANCED & UNBIASED VIEWS

HOW GREEN IS MY HEADGEAR A Bontoc woman walks on the edge of the famed Ifugao rice terraces, ever in danger of collapse because of climate change, protected from the heat by an integral headgear of strings of sweet potato (kumara) leaves. The rice terraces have been included in the Unesco list of world heritage in danger since 2001. But help is on its way (See story on Page A-4) www.inquirer.net/photonews

2 cops among witnesses

Mikey asks mom to run in Pampanga

By TJ Burgeño
in Manila
and Teodoro Gueja
in Pampanga

IF AND WHEN, FEELING THEIR CERTIFICATES of candidacy (CoC) as impressive of Pampanga's second district will not be a problem for President Macapagal-Arroyo because local officials can do it for her.

That's according to the incumbent, her elder son, Jesse Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, who declared yesterday his willingness to forgo seeking a third term to give way to her candidacy.

"You don't have to file your [CoC]. Allow these mayors, barangay captains to go to the Comelec [Commission on Elections] and file it for you," the young Arroyo told his mother in a speech at the Honor Hall in Malacanan.

There is head talk that Ms. Arroyo, whose term as President ends on June 30, will file her CoC on or before the Dec. 1 deadline.

On Friday, her election lawyer Rodolfo Alcala said she would file her CoC on Dec. 1 if the election is run, and that she was not required to personally file it.

Her Pampanga Auxiliary Bishop Pablo Virgo David said Ms. Arroyo should not seek the congressional post "in the name of decency and for the sake of propriety."

"It's appeal to her not to run and to respect the spirit of the Constitution instead of exploiting the letter of the law, which indeed does not categorically prohibit running for lower positions," David said.

The bishop is a native of Pangasinan, one of the six towns in Pangasinan's second district, and is a younger brother of University of the Philippines professor and former education secretary Florentino David.

Known for his progressive stance, the bishop said his wives had nothing to do with his brother's plan to challenge Macapagal at the polls.

Mikey Arroyo led a contingent of over 300 mayors, barangay captains and other local officials of Pangasinan in a call on

PHOTO: AP

Noynoy, Mar register as candidates

By Michael Lin Uscac
and Kristine L. Alene

PLEADING TO RIGHT CONVICTION and claiming to see victory at hand, frontrunner Sen. Noynoy Aquino III yesterday formally registered his candidacy in the 2010 election in a star-studded event worthy of any staged by the most popular movie star candidate.



Commitment

CANDLES ARE lit in honor of the dead in Maguindanao. www.inquirer.net/photonews

WE WILL BE THERE WITHIN.

We will repair these steps, those early hours before dawn, before dawn, when they, at least 27 journalists, arrived for a day's work. We will place together the bloody shards of the crime—the pain in the highway in Ampatuan country where the convoy in which they were part was trapped, the pain that stifled them, the, the gray field where they along with the rest of the unknowns in, brought their last.

We will appreciate the honor, the honor of the Institute of World Bank, the honor of the same calling that ultimately led them to their doom.

We will keep asking the terrible question: How could this have happened?

The mass murder in Maguindanao on Nov. 23 has come to define our generation as journalists. Nowhere in our history as an endangered breed has a similar occurrence approached such a degree of enormity or the body count been so outrageously high. For a more significant aspect casts a large shadow on the crime—the chance of impunity that seemed as bright as the sun. Let us not the staggering dimension of the killings take the edge off this fact.

We will be there within. Remembrance is not from the arms of their soul, we will acknowledge the terrible nature of their duty, as they were in the aftermath, unshaken, unshaken, that holds every. We will promise that getting into the vehicles that made up the convoy heading to the Commission on Elections office in Sharif Aguak, those in witness and record a promise that would have made official Maguindanao's gubernatorial candidacy they pushed impudently and sought comfort in the idea, hitherto unthinkable, that journalism is a power unto itself, sufficient to stand up to fear itself.

That they are dead now is heart-wrenching, and we will mourn that loss—having been proven wrong. Yet, despite having been crushed, the idea that reporting on an event, for the benefit of the public that we are sworn to inform, is no longer a guarantee of even safe passage, we will persevere. For too long have we lived gripped by a particular notion as freedom has defined it, that of being present and recording of events—a necessary burden of witness and, by extension, journalism. And we will continue to record our times and the evil that men and women do to us as we tell of oppression and injustice.

We will not live right of the fact that as many as 48 journalists, not counting the 27 murdered in Maguindanao, have been killed since 2005, when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took power. (Once upon a time, her husband, addressing a group of journalists in Legaspi, said to journalists on the island had been killed because "journalists have no responsibility to report.") To General requirements of "courage in one's life and talent in one's work" we will stand strong and committed.

There will be justice for the 27 journalists (and the women and other civil servants) who perished in the headlines of Maguindanao.

We will be their witness. Though we may no longer see the gun, we will see them.



NOTEPHOTO: AP

Search for more bodies in Maguindanao ends

By Marlon Ramos and Dena Z. Patillagosa

TWO OF THE FOUR POLICE OFFICERS BEING HELD FOR questioning over their purported role in the mass murder in Maguindanao on Nov. 23 have confessed being in the area at the time of the carnage.

"They admitted that they were there. They were actually standing a police checkpoint on the road," Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, head investigator of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said yesterday.

"It's a fact that they cannot deny," he said. Velasquez declined to name the two police officers, saying, to do so might affect the CIDG's "tactical operations."

He also said the police officers feared for the lives of family members still in Maguindanao.

Police yesterday concluded search and retrieval operations for bodies that may still be buried in a hillside dirt road in Sitio Masagay, Pangasinan, before, in Ampatuan, Maguindanao.

Senior Supt. Benavides Linao, the acting police chief of the province, he said reports that the body count had risen to 44 from 37.

Kartada Samar: Youth power vs AIDS

(Bureau's panel)
By Ector G. Dicapao

COTABATO, SAMAR—IT'S SUNDAY night live in Cagayan.

A crescent moon hangs low over the town, and residents are taking advantage of the balmy breeze that capped a day of oppressive heat and blinding sun.

In crowded Kartada Park right across the provincial capital, northern youths are lined up with toddlers, teenagers, couples and couples. Counting couples struggle to accept, protected by thick shawls, outside the circle of a military fluorescent lamp. Past their dinner time, the boys and girls of Kartada (K) are lined up at work, combining Cagayan's young citizens to listen to what they have to say.

It's not an easy job—a night out with the gang or one's sweetheart before the headlines of job at schoolwork take over on Monday would be a more tempting prospect. But the Ks and girls are not.

After several minutes of friendly conversation, three small groups materialized and spread out to separate corners, and

He said some of the crime operators had not reported any new corpses up since Friday.

"But we will resume our search if somebody seeks our help to locate their slain kin," Linao said.

In a statement issued yesterday, Commission on Human Rights Chief Lito de Lima suggested the formation of an independent commission to investigate the massacre and the application of the writ of amparo to protect journalists, investigators and witnesses to the crime.

De Lima argued that the Thursday arrest of Davao Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. "raises more questions about what seems to be an overly cautious response by the criminal department."

"There are many options available in the executive. We have yet to see [it] explore and apply the mandates of

1/20PM/021



Cuenca, Noynoy backer, named envoy to Italy

By TJ Burgeño
and Leticia Salazar

THERE'S NO MORE LOST BETWEEN the Arroyo administration and Dela Pina. Arroyo Cuenca, who was recently appointed ambassador to Italy despite his earlier statement that he was "born between his loves"—Berigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and the administration candidate.

Current president said he remains loyal to Lakas-Kampi-CMB but may not be able to campaign for the party if his new appointment proves tough—saying, say, that he is the confirmation of his appointment.

With only seven months to go before his term ends in June 2012, President Macapagal-Arroyo has made several appointments, including Cuenca, who will assume the post formerly held by Philippe Lhuillier.

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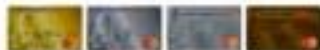
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Pangasinan radio, TV stations go off air to protest massacre

DAGUPAN CITY—Radio and television stations in Pangasinan went off the air for a minute starting 7 a.m. on Saturday to mourn the mass murder of at least 24 media practitioners in Maguindanao.

Bernie Brangas, president of the local chapter of the Kapagitan ng mga Journalist ng Pilipinas, said morning Sunday local newscasters will also be wearing black armbands or ribbons for a week to express their collective denunciation of the "unprecedented act of violence."

"We condemn the incident in the strongest possible terms. The perpetrators must be lawfully brought to justice," he said.

Pangasinan has seven AM and eight FM radio stations and two television stations.

In Dagupan City officials of the women's group, including Gabriela and Gabriela Women's Movement Against the Rape (GAWAR), are helping support groups in the international community to pressure the government to hasten the investigation of the Maguindanao massacre.



A SON of Maribelo Cabilan, one of the more than 26 journalists who were murdered in Zamboanga, Maguindanao, weeps over the coffin of his mother at a wake held for the murdered journalists in General Santos City.

In a forum at the University of the Philippines-Dagupan, Palang students, politicians, news and human rights advocates opened the event by offering prayers to the victims, most of them women and journalists.

"The problem in Maguindanao

should not only be seen as a class war. It's a war that reflects the political crisis in the country," said Maribel "Sampon" Tames, founding Gabriela chair.

Media groups in Dagupan City, including Gabriela and Capagay also held candle-lighting ceremonies and

wore black armbands and ribbons this week to mourn for the slain journalists and condemn the carnage.

In a statement on Saturday, Gabriela Rep. Lisa Maza said the women victims "were murdered twice over—they first were brutally taken [away] and

they were sexually violated."

Maza said presidential forces in the country should be disbanded "for they have long been used as private armies of political warlords." Gabriela/Capagay and Gabriela/GAWAR leaders in Zamboanga, including Northern Luzon

Bongbong: I'm proud, lucky to be a Marcos

By Kristine L. Alano

DONOR NORTH RIVER—Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said he is proud to be a Marcos.

Accompanied by his supporters and his wife, Imelda, he said he is proud of his parents' legacy and his role in the Marcos family.

When he was a child, he said he was ready to wear the same armbands as his father, but he decided not to.

"I strongly believe that I can contribute greatly to a nation especially in areas involving the economy," he said.

This is the second time Bongbong has been in the national arena, but he is not a politician.

Maza said presidential forces in the country should be disbanded "for they have long been used as private armies of political warlords."

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Entertainment revealed.

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Robin: Disarm Mindanao warlords to attain peace

MANILA, Philippines — A peace deal between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is a necessary step to end the decades-long conflict in Mindanao, a senior government official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the government is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and is working to build trust between the two sides.

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Bringing harmony to families all over the Globe

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Sa ilalim ng lisang langit,
sama-sama tayo sa lisang Globe.
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Globe

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Longer period for campaign both good, bad

BAGUIO CITY—A VIRTUALLY extended 2010 election period, which allows voters groups and media outlets about six months to prepare, provides a mixed bag of advantages and disadvantages for the 2010 elections.

The 2010 National Law Enforcement Officers' Union (NLEO) says that the extended period will allow candidates to prepare better for the election. It also allows candidates to prepare better for the election. It also allows candidates to prepare better for the election.

Executive spending

Groups like the Commission on Elections and Accountability, however, have been concerned about this provision because it encourages excessive campaign spending.

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Taking into account a national network of campaign resources for the 2010 elections, the Commission on Elections and Accountability has been concerned about this provision because it encourages excessive campaign spending.

organization set up by the law enforcement officers.

However, the extended campaign period is bad for many reasons, says, who "has received many more."

A major concern from the law enforcement officers is that the extended campaign period will allow candidates to prepare better for the election. It also allows candidates to prepare better for the election.

Candidates campaigning had worked for a shorter group of politicians, like Benigno Aquino, Jr., who "has received many more."

Delayed work

"Candidates are more confident. The fact that they have more time without competition speaks loudly about their belief and trust in the party or candidate that they are campaigning," said Long.

She said the extra time allowed has made candidates in the election more confident. The fact that they have more time without competition speaks loudly about their belief and trust in the party or candidate that they are campaigning.

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MEMBERS of the OFW group migrants protest at the Consulate office in Manila, said for recognition as a party for group rights to vote in every year's elections.

Deluge of candidates in Negros files CoCs

By Carlo P. Gomez

Special Column

MANILA—OVER 50 candidates in Negros Occidental, including those for mayor and vice mayor, filed their certificates of candidacy (CoC) on Friday.

The candidates for mayor and vice mayor filed their certificates of candidacy (CoC) on Friday.

The candidates for mayor and vice mayor filed their certificates of candidacy (CoC) on Friday.

In Cebu and Iloilo, Council Members also filed their CoCs for reelection.

The other candidates for councilor in the 2010 were: Ma. Litoa Muelo, Florio Barredo, Adriano Barredo, Juan Alano, Benito Barredo and Juan Barredo. In Iloilo, the candidates for councilor in the 2010 were: Ma. Litoa Muelo, Florio Barredo, Adriano Barredo, Juan Alano, Benito Barredo and Juan Barredo.

The candidates for councilor in Manila also filed their CoCs for reelection.

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In the same town, Larry Pineda will run for vice mayor.

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IN THE LINE OF DUTY In Cagayan City a soldier is greeted by the families before the start of their work. *CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPH*



WHERE IT HAPPENED Victims and people who did not survive gathered in Maguindayn where as many as 57 men and women were slaughtered in the worst massacre in modern times in the country. *CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPH*

No hospital arrest for Ampatuan-DOJ

HOSPITAL ARREST FOR DATE UNMAY

Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. the prime suspect in the Maguindayn massacre, has been ruled out for being justice secretary Angel Dela Cruz.

"The law, we can't just just the fact of hospital arrest. We will study this case carefully if that's needed," Dela Cruz said, referring to an interview over the case on APT.

The lawyer of Ampatuan Jr. claimed on Friday that his client was having difficulty breathing in the cramped and humid detention cell at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

NBI officials said Ampatuan Jr. who was taken into custody on Thursday had no medical condition except for a fever of 38 degrees.

He (Ampatuan Jr.) was not breathing," said NBI medical-legal division chief Francisco Dela Cruz.

Lorena Paul Landa, chief of the NBI in

Maguindayn, said Ampatuan Jr. was under permanent custody by Bureau Division.

Landa said the NBI had yet to receive a request from the justice secretary that he be put in hospital arrest.

But Dela Cruz, son of Ampatuan A's lawyer, said he was in three telephone conversations with his client. He did not disclose.

Delacruz also said Ampatuan Jr. is expected to be released for governor of Maguindayn to succeed his father, Andal Ampatuan Sr., who was killed during the 2003 election.

"We cannot say he will die. The question is, will the people still vote for them?" he said.

Security personnel fight in the NBI, with agents and security personnel armed with high-powered guns periodically patrolling the compound. *— J. J. BERNARDINO/INQUIRER*

'They are monsters'

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CITY—THE

case of the 2003 election was filled with horror stories. The case of the 2003 election was filled with horror stories. The case of the 2003 election was filled with horror stories.

"They are monsters. They deserve to be put to death. Let them die," said one of the 2003 election winners, a 20-year-old student.

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2 cops among witnesses

PROSECUTOR

administration compliance and prevention, investigation and the Local Government Code against Maguindayn-kill. Andal Ampatuan Jr. and various local officials," he said.

He also said that the names of Ampatuan Jr. and various local officials, he said.

"We hope that the law on filing murder charges against Ampatuan Jr. does not prevent prosecution from the justice secretary," he said.

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ing justice than any," he said.

Delacruz said several independent witnesses had seen him on the day of the massacre.

"We are very careful. We are doing cross-checking of books, records, files, and so on," he said.

"We are not sure if there are any more witnesses," he said.

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ALL IN A ROW At least 27 people were killed in the massacre. *CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPH*

He and the 10 witnesses were interviewed by the two officers who submitted their statements before the case was filed.

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Deaf student graduates with a magna

Feisty 23-year-old proves nothing is impossible



ANA KRISTINA ARCE: Deaf people have the skills and a lot to share with the hearing community.

By Tina G. Santos

WHEN VILMA MAGASAEZ Arce was pregnant with her middle child, doctors found out that the second-time mother had contracted German measles.

"I was warned by my doctor that there was a very slim chance of giving birth to a normal child," she said. "I was told I had an option to abort the baby, but I decided to push through with my pregnancy and just prayed to God to help me cope in the event that my child would have a disability."

Last month, Ana Kristina, who was born-deaf, rocked in her bed a magna cum laude from the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde (DLSB-CSB),

where she graduated with a Bachelor in Applied Social Studies, specializing in child studies.

"I wasn't expecting to be a magna cum laude. But as I reflect on it, I believe that the fact that we achieve things and I'm happy that I was able to prove that I hope other deaf students would follow suit," said Arce, now 23, who was assisted by a computer and a hearing teacher as her sign language interpreter during the interview with Inquirer.

Ana didn't show signs of distress until she was 18 months old.

"I caught her playing baroque near the television screen," said Vilma, a freelance public relations executive. "Maybe she was wondering why she was seeing something on the

screen but couldn't hear anything."

Vilma said she initially felt depressed after doctors confirmed her prognosis but that she said she was lucky to have been surrounded by supportive friends. "I also went to a counselor to help me cope," she said.

Vilma said she eventually had to quit a 9-to-5 job as he with the onset of the illness.

At first, Ana seemed like a normal kid because she reacted to voices.

Once, Ana attended a friend's birthday party and joined her fellow kids in a stop-dance routine.

"Normally, the hearing children refrained from dancing when the music stopped, leaving Ana the only one dancing," her mother recalled. "I called her attention and that

was when she stopped dancing. She did not cry or show signs that she felt awkward. She just usually walked toward me, still smiling."

Ana admitted she used to be sad, joined by the communication barrier when she was young.

"I felt awkward when I communicated with hearing people who did not know how to sign. I also used to feel insecure when I couldn't do things others could do, like sing," she said.

Ana said she also experienced discrimination from her classmates when she was in middle college where Deaf and hearing students were integrated in class.

"I found out that we (Deaf students) were excluded in meetings and group projects. I tried to show my hearing peers what I could do, but they never gave me a chance to prove



Giant Lantern Festival

(December 19, San Fernando, Pangasinan)

A dazzling display of lanterns, some measuring up to 30 feet and 30 ft by over 1000 ft high, the Giant Lantern Festival draws local and foreign tourists alike to San Fernando, home to the "Lighthouse Capital" of the Philippines. It is one of the most exciting and colorful celebrations of Christmas in the country.

I strongly believe that only all help others to become great and brighter as the night's stars. Believe in hope.

Henry A. Magallon
Governor of Pangasinan

WITNESS BRIGHT LIGHTS IN GIGANTIC PROPORTIONS.

The World

Editor: Lawrence B. Gueco

Gatecrashers met Obama

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, had a heart-to-heart conversation with the couple who snuck into a state dinner at the White House this week. White House officials welcomed them on Friday.

The revelation prompted an almost apologetic from the White House.

A White House spokeswoman said the couple, Michelle and Terry Slaton, of Virginia, met and shared words with the president and the first lady in the evening line to the Blue Room, at the Obama state dinner of their 400 invited guests. They might better have waited in a hall in the South Lawn for dinner.

That disclosure coincided with comment from the director of the Secret Service, Mark Sullivan, saying that he supports such "discreet" encounters and that he would not "interfere" with the event.

Secret Service officials said the agency wanted to intervene in private encounters with the president, including the Slatons, and had not ruled out similar changes.

The preliminary review of the January investigation had determined uninvited guests were not followed in an authorized checkpoint, something that the individuals were on the guest list, Sullivan said.



PHOTO released by the White House shows President Barack Obama greeting invited guests Michelle and Terry Slaton at a screening for the State Dinner with First Woman Honoree (right) (left) Slaton, at the White House.

"Although these individuals were through management and other levels of screening, they should have been prohibited from entering the event area," Sullivan said. "That is the message."

The couple's lawyer, Paul W. Gardner of Baltimore, says that the Slatons had been "invited" by the White House, "in the event, and we were not really 'invited'."

Obama declined a request to elaborate on the incident.

But a Secret Service spokesman, James Glavin, said he had no idea how the Slatons could make such claims.

Domestic security experts said the episode raised serious questions about governance for the president. The Slatons' entry was a "big mistake," said a Virginia security

expert. "It's a big mistake," said a Virginia security expert. "It's a big mistake," said a Virginia security expert.

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Who wrote the Serenity Prayer?

THE TALE LIBRARIAN WHO can doubt her own words is the author of the Serenity Prayer, adapted by Alcoholics Anonymous and repeated on countless occasions, says new evidence for a possible link to the author of the prayer, the Rev. Richard D. Smith, who is the author of the new edition of "The Book of Quotations."

The prayer, which begins, "God, give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change what must be altered, and the wisdom to know the difference," is a prayer that has been used by millions of people.

Smith, who is the author of the new edition of "The Book of Quotations," says he has found evidence that the prayer was written by a man named Richard D. Smith, who is the author of the new edition of "The Book of Quotations."

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Russia train crash kills 39; attack suspected

MOSCOW, Russia—AT LEAST 39 people were killed and nearly 100 injured when a Russian train derailed near the town of Yasnaya Polyana in the south of the country.

The train was carrying a mix of passengers and cargo. It was traveling from Moscow to the town of Yasnaya Polyana, which is about 100 kilometers from the capital.

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Sunday Biz

Paeng's microfinance dream lives on

By Devin L. Lacin

THERE WAS A TIME, NOT TOO long ago, when microfinance was a difficult and unpopular issue to push as a model of poverty alleviation.

After all, the ubiquitous "five-six" system was the preferred—and often, only—money lending scheme available to many underprivileged Filipinos who did not have enough money or assets to deal with banks.

Along came Rafael B. Ramonementa in 1999, who suddenly began pushing for the widespread adoption of microfinance in the local financial system, to the tune of many of his friends who knew him more as a high-flying investment banker than a banker to the poor.

"Five-six" was a heavy burden on the poor," said Ramonementa then, referring to the daily scheme where they lend the equivalent of P1 and collect P1.50 the next day, with interest rates of 20 percent per week or the equivalent of 1,440 percent per annum. "Imagine charging poor people something like this. It's immoral."

Poor pressure system

Under the microfinance scheme, accredited financial institutions are allowed to lend out as much as P150,000 per borrower, at collateral-free, interest rates up to anywhere from 16 percent to 16 percent per annum, which is significantly lower than what loan sharks charge.

Despite the disaster of collapsed, ill-managed microfinance in the period, thanks to a poor pressure system where microfinance credit standards are based on the loan status of their fellow microfinance clients.

The bulk of microfinance borrowers

"Five-six" is such a heavy burden on the poor... It's immoral!"



RAMONEMENTA

take out loans of between P25,000 to more than P100,000.

Powered by the Gramscian Bank in Bangladesh, the model was imported to the Philippines and had its share of ups and downs. Fortunately for Ramonementa, he had the perfect ally: public. In his second advisory role, not only was he a banker of international repute, he was also a moral banker, leading the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) as its governor from 1998 to 2003.

From that high perch, he was able to convince lawmakers to enact provisions for microfinance to what would eventually become the General Banking Law of 2000, which cemented the national role of the central bank in promoting microfinance.

Known to his friends as "Paeng," Ramonementa passed away after a long battle with cancer on Nov. 20, 2008.

But his battle against poverty in the country since then has been carried on by his family and friends through the Rafael B. Ramonementa Center for Microfinance.

Organizational issues

According to its executive director Leticia "Digger" Conrado, the foundation has been quiet, but very active in its activities.

"Right now, we're providing mentoring services to various microfinance institutions which are experiencing organizational problems," he said in an interview. "We have a busy time for us."

But what kind of help or expertise could big-city bankers share with small-town microfinance clients?

"For sure, we didn't give them any credit and collection training anymore," Conrado said. "These people are way better than us when it comes to these issues."

Instead, the RBRC Center for Microfinance helps small microfinance firms in resolving their "organizational issues."

Conrado—who is also executive director of the National Association of the Philippines—said the foundation is active in issues like helping microfinance clients deal with the welfare issues in their members of households.

"Since used to have 50,000 loan accounts, but suddenly they now have to deal with 100,000 loan accounts," he said, explaining that the popularity of microfinance has led many firms struggling to keep up with the growing business.

"What we did through Paeng's foundation

was to tap retired bankers who are now living off their savings (from their own money) to help," he said. "These are people like Gilbert Ave, who was Paeng's former business development manager at CebuBank, Tito Monzonillo and Mike Angeles."

Financing the rise

He said the foundation is also helping microfinance firms deal with the growing attention rate in the industry since lending has become the norm.

"We're helping them deal with attention because getting rates are rising," he said. "These microfinance officers have been using various, informal and unethical strategies to get the money and credit managers and collectors to the afternoon."

Indeed, the latest numbers from the BSP show that there are now 228 microfinance institutions nationwide, with P6.4 billion in loans to more than 800,000 borrowers.

There are also about P1.6 billion worth of savings lodged with these institutions, mostly from their borrowers.

Conrado pointed out that many microfinance firms have access to funding from established lending institutions, but avoid bank funding for them to move to the next level of operations.

"Microfinance relies on the market," he said. "This is the reason why we're providing. This is one part of Paeng's vision."

To extend its reach, the Ramonementa microfinance foundation has linked up with PNB's microfinance group that helps underprivileged borrowers lift themselves out of poverty through microfinance.

Mainstay paid

"What we have is a mainstay cost," Conrado said, adding that Ramonementa's vision is shared by his foundation's members, which includes former development bank of the Philippines chair Antonio Almonzo, former Monetary Board member Theodore Montelibano, head of the Philippine Islamic private sector, Marwan H. Al-Sayid, and former Philippine chair Roberto Alonzo, his son RBP president the executive Vice President and Paeng's older brother, Cesar Ramonementa.

"Last year, we paid for institutionalization of the work of the foundation," he said. "This was his dream. This is what he would have wanted."

Meralco walks on 'greener' path

WITH THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE Change becoming more evident, the Manila Electric Co. is taking toward a "greener" path by embracing a "Clean Power" management system.

The system—through which Meralco aims to create sustainable greenhouse gas reduction in its distribution system—is now being implemented starting with its South Luzon Region Services (SLSR), in partnership with the China National Petroleum Administration, the Japan Group Business Services, and suppliers.

"Meralco is very aware of its carbon footprint. With this corporate initiative, we aim to contribute to a greener environment by participating with like-minded organizations and by reducing the emissions of our more than 1,000 units of staff equipment," project manager and SLSR head Roderick Garcia said in a statement.

"We want to improve our processes to optimize fuel and equipment use and reduce emissions and influence employee behavior through participation,

training and monitoring," he said.

Meralco's SLSR, which covers Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon provinces for over half of the company's distribution area, is the pilot area because it was ISO-14001-certified for its environmental management system in March.

According to Garcia, the initiative makes Meralco one of the few Philippine companies to engage in greenhouse gas accounting and voluntary reduction to the China Pilot Management Toolkit developed by the United Nations Environment Program.

"The project will show that providing safety operations also means economic opportunities through efficiency initiatives related to greenhouse gas reduction, fuel and equipment use," Garcia said. At present, project partners are training Meralco employees in proper fuel use, testing and maintenance, and greenhouse gas reduction.

The results will be the basis for replication in Meralco's North and Central Luzon divisions.

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Sunday LIFE STYLE

Relationships

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Black butterflies, 'tsug!' moments—my life with accidental psychics

The sight of sparrows sent us off to the cemetery to placate dead relatives, lest a flock descended on my mother as in a Hitchcock movie

BY MELODY CHAN



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Serving Manny, Mick Jagger, Queen Sofia—tales of a hotel GM

Lesson from royalty—the higher they are, they more humble and respectful they are



BRADFORD in the apartment he recently moved

By **Marco C. Enriquez**
 Contributor

CALABRESS FERNANDES THE bachelor's pad of the Mandarin Oriental's new general manager, Mark Bradford, Swiss-Italian, furnished his apartment himself, and it's a picture of Asian grace.

Natural colors of wood and bamboo, lamp and table are used. The quiet look is carried through the furniture. There is a sense of personal style in the way the pieces are arranged. The patterned bamboo dining chairs and table wood table with a metal grate, the modern sofa with subtle beige from India with patterned Indonesian tapestries, European styled lamp, a Chinese medicine cabinet and a low table with traditional cushions of woods, as well as paintings—one all surrounded by space.

The diversity of unnecessary detail makes a strong statement. The design reflects the 28-year-old's open working in Asia, held with the Mandarin Group.

"I could object to live around me," says Bradford. "No, I'm in a business where you meet a lot of people. So you need culture when you're in every other people and environment."

A sense of tradition is carried in a modern, polished on a platform for the window. "Though I'm French-Italian, I'm sold to respect religious images. I make sure it's on a higher platform and there are just a few objects around, showing that I respect it," he says.

Asian connection

A career filled with old photographs reveals his Asian connections. There are early 20th-century photographs of the Grand Prince Hotel, residence of his sister in Manila in Bangkok as GM. Bradford shows a photograph of his maternal grandfather perched on a chair. He came to Asia in the 1920s with the Royal Dutch Shell and was also a scholar of the historical geography.

His mother was born in Shanghai in the 1930s. His father was a director for Dupont who traveled to Japan and the Philippines and even stayed at Manila Hotel. Growing up in better times, Bradford lived in a house

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 The more the merrier!

Bida ang sarap!

Jollibee

Serving Manny, Mick Jagger, Queen Sofia—tales of a hotel GM

Source: <http://www.fishbase.org>

His father encouraged his son to take a leading role in his local church. In fact, he took up an MBA in food management at the Louisiana Hotel Management School in Shreveport. The career has taught him a lot about organizing other people's culture and religion while maintaining high standards of service.

"After talking to the rich and famous and the affluent people in each community," he says, "for generations, the world has been used to being served by large numbers of people. There's a culture of service in those families. They are used to perfection. Our business is hospitality rooted in the 20th century. When you come to the Ritz and famous, these great families have expectations that have been on the service. They demand the standards of 'being a lady.' What does that mean for a business like ours? We create lovely, lovely people, not even if they're not to please, the Queen of England."

Attention to detail

The 43-year-old GEM points out that in doing VIP service, attention to detail is important.

"It takes lots of preparation. For them, molting is a voyage. Everything has to be done, from the broodfast of unscented eggs with bacon—the bacon has to crack, the place has to be very hot. Unscented egg has to be warm, whether it is served in a formal garden or has been sent and there's meeting with the prize money, or a dinner table. That time has to be served in the same way. Their clothes have to be handled in perfection."

"It has to do with preparation," he adds. "You know what they like and dislike about you. Whether it's the General Electric CEO Jack Welch or other leaders, no matter the service to these individuals. Most people pay only in plain. If the people around them that want to create more challenges. Their livelihoods depend on the people they're serving; they're likely to cater to their needs."

That work is a drive for production starting from the end cap, that is rolled down at the lobby entrance within minutes before the limousine arrives. The elements are as

BRADFORD'S collection of Aztec crafts and artworks collected from his estate in various properties in the region.

Similarly, the business grants the person with the right protocol and access from or past to the rooms. The rooms are usually disinfected if it's Mick Jagger, because he can't sleep with the slightest amount of light."

When the King of Morocco visited Bangkok, the bird in the master suite had to be removed since the royal visit brought his own parasites.

Medford opens framed photos of his parents while dining his visit as GM of Mercedes-Benz and in other local spots. He's building a reputation of a versatile, the Crown Prince of Wisconsin. President George Bush is the Jean Luc, president of FIA, the world's governing body for motor sports is better known as Michelle Smith's partner, Roger Federer, and his brother, Queen Wilhelmina.

the study reveals that teachers from urban to

"They do what we should re-out staff. It's not because you're a CM, you don't like some prima donna. That's what you heard from inside. The higher they are, they're more



THE ROOM LOOKS AS IF IT WAS PAINTED BY AN INDIAN AND A CHINESE MASTER. COLORED SILD WAXES TO THE ROOM.



The watchman, Thompson, rubbed grease and approximated the shaft rotation. He attended the manual shaft party which gave warning sounds, and checked them for safety.

The cockshotted champion valued privacy and appreciated the staff service. He attended the annual staff party which gave service awards, and thanked them for going out of their way to look after him. He even shared stories of his life and what his job had meant to him.

One of his most unforgettable experiences was treating a patient with terminal cancer while he was CEO of the Marshfield Clinic.

The good didn't have a great budget. We went out of our way to give the husband and wife a beautiful villa with a pool and some pampering. These people were not used to luxury resorts. They were very touched. The wife expressed her gratitude.

That is something I value. You can make a difference in someone's life by giving them unique quality time together. That's something I can do with my exceptional Sitewit players. We can take pride in treating everyone in a personal way."

With stiff competition from other hotels, Seaside has a message for the town:

In his first Christmas he's spending in the Philippines, he has arranged for a 20-ft-tall Greek Christmas tree from Davao, CR, an Christmas dinner reception, a Mass, and a family gift-giving time for the 3000 visitors.

NEUTRAL. COLORADO volcano is working while the modern hardware (about 1980) is the

"The Maritime Council has built its reputation for personal, attentive service, delicious food and great parties where people celebrate memorable events. It's my responsibility, with USF employees here daily with an average of 15 years, to enhance the business. More important, of course, is the value for service."

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD by Frank A. Longo

CFL PARTNERS
and a company

[illegible]

humble and respectful. That comes with education," he says.

Models and actors, on the other hand, are very loudly "they've started not to ask 'Can I have a picture with you?' especially if the model isn't gay," says Lindbergh.

Soft-spoken bawler

When Bradford started his work at *Wine* in Manila, he met Manny Pangalos, who was infected the year before. "He's very well spoken. You'd never imagine he was a leaver," he recalls.

Concepts Sudoku

Dr. Henry J. Moore

1		9		7
2		1	4	8
4	9	4	6	8
	3	7	2	1
3		6	8	1
6		5		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1990

Answer to previous puzzle

3	8	1	8	2	9	7	5	4
5	0	8	4	1	7	3	8	2
2	4	7	6	3	5	6	1	9
4	7	9	1	8	6	2	3	5
8	8	2	3	6	4	1	9	7
1	3	5	9	7	2	8	4	6
7	2	8	5	4	1	9	6	3
9	5	3	7	6	8	4	2	1
6	1	4	2	9	3	5	7	8

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Use and protect the www.nytimes.com

A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE AT THE PODIUM

Since it opened in 2002, The Podium has become a favorite foodie destination in the Origas Center. With its upscale ambience and specialty restaurants, it brings together the best of Asian and Western cuisine to its discriminating clientele. Here are some restaurants that celebrate the Good Life at The Podium.

Asian Fusion

NEW PHILIPPINE RESTAURANT



Traditionally Filipino cuisine encompasses a variety of flavors and textures, from the hearty and hearty to the light and delicate. At this new restaurant, the chef has created a menu that is both traditional and modern, featuring a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy. The chef has also created a menu that is both traditional and modern, featuring a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy.

RESTAURANT



This new restaurant is a true gem, offering a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy. The chef has created a menu that is both traditional and modern, featuring a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy. The chef has also created a menu that is both traditional and modern, featuring a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy.

RESTAURANT



Known for its delicious food and excellent service, this restaurant is a true gem. The chef has created a menu that is both traditional and modern, featuring a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy. The chef has also created a menu that is both traditional and modern, featuring a variety of dishes that are both delicious and healthy.

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Western Flavors

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Enjoy a moveable feast at The Podium's specialty restaurants with your family and friends from December 4-6, and avail of great finds and bargains up to 70% at the mall's Pre-Christmas Sale.

YOUR DECEMBER DATEBOOK AT THE PODIUM

While doing your Christmas shopping at our upscale stores and dining out with family and friends in our specialty restaurants, make a stop at our Atrium, and enjoy a wonderful cooking, fashion and music events at The Podium



THE PODIUM SHOW FOR THE BENEFIT OF BANTU
A special event featuring a variety of performances and a silent auction. The event is held at The Podium and is a great opportunity to support a good cause while enjoying a night of entertainment.



YOUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR
A special event featuring a variety of performances and a silent auction. The event is held at The Podium and is a great opportunity to support a good cause while enjoying a night of entertainment.



ACADEMY OF ARTS
A special event featuring a variety of performances and a silent auction. The event is held at The Podium and is a great opportunity to support a good cause while enjoying a night of entertainment.



Christmas Gift Guide

Free splash when you play with fire









Cofradia to hold 30th Marian procession

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Durong



IN DECEMBER 2007, THE Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion and Insurance Administration, which was headed then by Jaime Loria, held the first Marian procession honoring Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, her feast day. During Dec. 2007, the year's December major, remembers that there were only 20 Marian images.

One of the images belonged to the members of the Cofradia. The image was returned to the different parishes. They were told, there are 80 images expected to join the procession on Dec. 8, 4 p.m. The event, the largest Marian procession in Manila, gathered the different parishes of the Virgin Mary.

The support of Mrs. Mariela Guevara, founding chair of the Cofradia, Aaron Elizalde, 2007 de la Inmaculada Concepcion president, and officers and members have helped the group to continuously hold this event to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Other activities
 There's a schedule to follow Dec. 3-4, 11:00 a.m. at Manila Cathedral (Edificio de Manila); Dec. 3, 5 p.m. (Fighting of Ignorance to the Holy Church which was initiated by the Cofradia); Dec. 5, 8 a.m. (First Communion) at Manila Cathedral; Dec. 8, 2 p.m. (8 Immaculate Conception) will follow by the procession at 4 p.m. to the spreading of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Philippines. The Annual Procession of the Philippines, the of old, will meet the Blessed Virgin during the procession accompanied by the bands of the different parishes of the city.

St. Pater Pio reliquary
 For the first time, a reliquary containing the body of St. Pater Pio will be part of the procession of the Virgen de la Inmaculada, to be brought by the Cofradia. "Pater Pio" for the procession on Dec. 8. The reliquary was given to the Cofradia by the 100-year-old which his grandchild, Mariela Balaguer Pater brought him to San Gerardo Paroquia in April 1963. Remembering that time, they told me that the image to be said by Padre Pio was 12 a.m. He went with his wife only wearing the 10, 100-year-old, since he was dedicated to the saint as a child.

One of the priests who has asked if he could carry the image to the altar, he was an experience of a lifetime. Even now, they remember every detail, as they walked patiently while Padre Pio and the Virgin. It took all of two hours. After the Virgin, Padre Pio, one of the 100, gave him the image, which he has kept to this day. The image has been blessed several times by the Cofradia, and it helped in their healing.



Pipe Organ Festival



St. Pater Pio reliquary

Pipe Organ Festival
 The Manila Cathedral will hold the 4th Pipe Organ Festival on Dec. 2, 7 p.m. Stated by the Golden Jubilee Christmas Gala Concert, the event will feature the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra to be conducted by St. David (Herald).

As a Christmas concert, it will feature a 30-year choir singing Christmas carols to be accompanied by the 1990 and conducted by the Cofradia.

Intended to raise funds for the victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" and the reconstruction projects of the cathedral, the event will also feature support from the Cofradia.

The event will also feature support from the Cofradia.



Masters Señors de Gals



Cofradia



*eckō unlt'd.



Frank Mir



BE UNLIMITED



SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Bloom Britannia

Review subject

Paul's collected, the band's *No One Live* CD runs until the end of October at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, but tickets for performances at this venue are sold out and on-line Shakespearean writing are hard to come by. There's little hope for the moment, whether or not, to catch the show this season.

However, public squares and "parks" (e.g. Knesset Gardens) challenge the latter view of the city as a place of free and lively entertainment. The second of course, from classic Greek, can and are

just, it's everywhere. This summer, the talks of bankers and investment professionals have been fueled by the number of Michael Jackson look-alikes and dance-alikes, another clue: this is "Thriller."

In Current Gardens, that stylish market for the young and trendy, a giant and hyperrealist "swellable man" holds court seated in an oversized chair nonchalantly "swallowing" a sign. Nearby, a man's disembodied head is in a cardboard box, donated at the Love Kites and visible only from the neck on, in



TYPICAL Engine Characteristics

talking a mean streak, addressing a large audience of children and adults.

What? Nicknames in London? You've got to be kidding! Or so I thought, the first time I stepped out. But hey, it's true. They are all about the place. Posh (posered) together, sweeping in and out of West End on the drive, in by night, young, middle-aged, even oldish men of different political stripes, color and race, including Asians. The short ride from Covent Garden to any Chinatown, will set you back around £8.

Speakers of Chinese, take a break from eating and shopping and grab a bite at one of the restaurants, a great level of where food speaks a universal language. English and Cantonese, by the way, are also spoken there, along with dozens of other languages. On take a London bus, any London bus heading in any direction, or the Tube. Listen closely and hear the symphony of a thousand and more tongues spoken there, including...you guessed it...Tagalog.

'Bliss' heaven

For the cheapest and best way to see most of daytime London, take one of those "Hop-on, hop-off" tourist buses. These companies provide the service and tickets can be purchased on the spot at any of the designated stops along the route which covers the major sights visited by day including St Paul's Cathedral, London Bridge, Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and the House of Parliament, Harrod, Kensington Palace, Buckingham Palace and many other sights of interest.

As the time approaches, hop on and off at any point along the way or buy your own bus ticket; you can even avoid the route, drive on your own road racing around the city at all a bit of a hobby if you want to do it. But most people arrive just enjoying to make a bit of noise and to see the show.

With the economic downturn, London today is very much a buyer's market, not only in terms of real estate, but also in terms of more modest purchases. Like cars, houses and even cars, property prices are showing a real rise at the moment. The crown jewels of Hong Kong, still recently colonised as the "shopping capital of the west", crowd continue to pour one another at London's most celebrated river, the Thames, where—priced with a vengeance—people buy and sell real estate.

a real choice these days. My personal preference is for the more sophisticated and less predictable (but not too), where pressure is stimulating and shopping accessories comes with unexpected delight, including encounters of a different kind with newly dressed "famous" in those fancy quarters to grab 30-degree summer shirt. Where else might one run into a "famous" someone such as the king in "Nero and the King of Rome" or Pilgrimage, my "only in the Philippines," well, my changing that to "only in London." Where else might you find such hot guys, such moments, and such soft voices in such a place?

And the place that most have had food brought to them is Gethsemane. Slaves of earned food and/or on wages, incredibly tender and moist and tasty, served with slices of bread and glorioux. "Yummy!" And for those with a taste for the exotic, a dedicated staff near the Food Hall of the same name offers mouth-watering as Georgian food, Pickled Feta-Raised tomatoes, delicious and ready to eat, as well as the Wines of Georgia, all items made specially for human consumption. Or, if you prefer, Chocolate-Glazed, Red, Green and Orange Cakes and Applesauce Pudding. There are also a few exotic 24 Hour Cold Lollipops and a Coffee bar found also in the Palace.

As we continued to finish our walk, a US pop group walked over the radio. "London walks going nowhere, going nowhere," sang someone. "I wondered how they might imagine that London was made of nothing but people going nowhere," said the man who had once made me find it past the city center and suburbs, and put on such a proper and serious face. Fear, anxiety, and discipline are generally negatively observed, and the man's face was a good example of this. It is maintained, with clear signs and easy-to-follow directions. Usually, the English countryside may be among the most beautiful in the world. The panoramic methods of maintaining the landscape, the various places effectively with a landscape that ranges in a patchwork of greens and the occasional gold where the field has been harvested, resembles a tapestry with a pattern of green and gold. The landscape is maintained, and given with a feeling of care and attention. I found it difficult to go to my own destination but finding better of my surroundings, they have missed the bus. In Britain, some holiday destinations where where some drive, or train ride, or

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AVAILABLE TO *Stake Smart*, and live online with
EXISTING SUBSCRIBERS No need to register again.

Only 1000-2000 live remain globally.

Ace Hardware Opens at SM City Rosales



These out of town from Sherry make great repair helpers and gifts for the Builders.



Footnote 1 *Wages* in the *Journal of Human Capital* is available at <http://www.johncain.com>.

The new ACE Hardware store at 381 City Roaders is a one-stop shop for the latest home improvement solutions. The store is located at the mall's second level, and like all other ACE Hardware stores worldwide, it is a *HYV* haven for fix-its, clean-ups, and do-it-yourself projects.

Like all other ACE Hardware stores nationwide, the new store in Houston has an exciting selection of paints and murals, electrical and plumbing equipment, hardware materials and power tools, building materials, outdoor equipment, storage solutions, and more to fit the car and house.

And while shopping at SM City Novena, you can check out ACI's Holiday Gift Suggestions promotion, which will be ongoing until November 30. You can get great savings and discounts on selected items, and earn reward points using your SM Freestyle Card, SM Advantage Card, and ACI Rewards Card.

Stop for Christmas at the new ACE Hardware store at SM City Rosario, and at all other stores located at SM Mall of Asia, SM Cubao, and at SM Supermalls nationwide. These are also available at ACE Builders Centers at SM City North-EDSA, SM City Pasay, and SM City Pampanga.



This Color cine compact DVD player is a top-loading DVD player with ultra-compact design and full function remote control.



This Barba that will help you choosing that one



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Franklin, D. 1997. *Conservation of the American West*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

New hotel aims to become leading conference hub in Macau

Sixty Hotels & Resorts recently unveiled the brand-new hotel at the Cotai Strip of Macau, in the bordering City of Swire, and opened, marking the return of the hotel to the world of accommodations in the border city.

The 791 guestroom hotel is designed to fit for great possibilities for meetings, seminars, conferences and exhibitions, with its 1,000-sq-ft function space spanning over the 80,000-sq-ft hotel.

The hotel is functional space concept visually rather than structurally, where each space flows into the next. All the guest rooms are spacious and provide comfortable views of the Cotai Strip or the Cotai Strip.

The Grand Tower has 400 rooms and suites featuring photographs of Macau. The property Grand Club Tower showcases hotel's spa and wellness in its 300 rooms and suites.

Guest rooms are equipped with the latest technology, including satellite television, internet access, and an air conditioning unit. The hotel also has a 24-hour front desk and a 24-hour security service.

The hotel is a new hotel and is located in the heart of the Cotai Strip, the heart of the Cotai Strip. The hotel is a new hotel and is located in the heart of the Cotai Strip, the heart of the Cotai Strip.

New partner

Hotel Group, the world's leading hotel group, has announced its new hotel partner in Macau. The hotel is a new hotel and is located in the heart of the Cotai Strip, the heart of the Cotai Strip.

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Rebranded hotel

New World International Development Property Inc. (NWDI), a Hong Kong-based real estate developer, has announced that the hotel has been rebranded to New World Hotel Macau City. The hotel provides 100 guest rooms and suites, offering state-of-the-art facilities and services, including a swimming pool, fitness center, and a spa.

Asiana's happy room

Asiana Airlines (OZ) has expanded its happy room service, a unique set of services for passengers traveling with infants. Happy Room services include in-flight check-in counters for babies with strollers, the repositioning service, free infant sleep bags, and a baby car seat.

Asiana offers the service in all international airports, and its happy room flights start at 12 hours. The Happy Room services have also been extended to children aged 10 months of age. The Asiana Lounge in Macau has also been expanded to include a baby car seat and a baby stroller.

MAS' global sales

Malaysia Airlines (MAS) offers travelers great deals on Kuala Lumpur, Europe and the Indian subcontinent from Cebu. It will start June 30, 2010. The popular Kuala Lumpur route is now available from Cebu to Kuala Lumpur, and from Cebu to Kuala Lumpur.

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Christmas Revelry Hamper

The Perfect Gourmet Gift this Christmas

Discover your loved ones with a hamper of gourmet products this festive season. Featuring the best holiday treats from DeliFrance: Premium English Truffles, Christmas Cake, Chocolate Caramel Pecan, premium Assorted Coffee Beans, a Premium Coffee Press, and a bottle of French wine, all beautifully presented in a limited edition picnic bag.

Find us in the holidays with DeliFrance

Get an early bird discount when you order before November 30, 2009. For more information call: 64584001

*Minsan lang ito sa isang taon.
Dapat ganito ka-espeyal.*

PUREFOODS

Fiesta Ham

STAR OF THE NOCHE BUENA

IT'S ALL HERE AT SM CUBAO

The Cyberzone brings techie fun to a whole new generation of customers at the newly renovated SM Cubao in Araneta Center



SM Cubao's six-level carpark has more than 400 parking slots to offer

Shoppers at the newly renovated SM Cubao are amazed not only at the great designs and great finds, but also how it has become a truly one-stop destination with new concepts like the Cyberzone. With that, they can conveniently shop for fashion, for the home, for the kids, for food straight from the source, and for the latest gadgets, all in one stop.

Located on the Lower Ground Floor of SM Cubao, I.T.'s all here at the Cyberzone—computer stores with top of the line technology, the widest selection of the latest gadgets, internet cafes, and video stores that will help them stay connected! And while they're on line, they can take a break and relax with some of the best brews at Coffee Break. Exciting networking events have also been lined up for more techie fun. Completing the cyber experience is the free Wi-Fi access at the zone.

Enter a whole new I.T. world at the Cyberzone at SM Cubao. Its main entrance is along Mokur Avenue, and can also be conveniently accessed through the Times Square Exit. Through service elevators from the carpark, as well as through the SM Department Store.



Cyberzone entrance off Mokur Ave at SM Cubao



Coffee Break offers one-stop and relax while drinking coffee at Coffee Break



Fast offers online gaming and internet usage



Cyberzone floor lighting and spacious office create a cool ambience



Smiley



Shop connected at the FLDT works



Design



CD-R King

I.T.'s All Here at the Cyberzone

Smartphones, Tablets, CD-R King, FLDT, Supermarket, Internet, Express Access, TCE, City Light, SET, Laptop, Data, MP3, MP4, MP5, MP6, MP7, MP8, MP9, MP10, MP11, MP12, MP13, MP14, MP15, MP16, MP17, MP18, MP19, MP20, MP21, MP22, MP23, MP24, MP25, MP26, MP27, MP28, MP29, MP30, MP31, MP32, MP33, MP34, MP35, MP36, MP37, MP38, MP39, MP40, MP41, MP42, MP43, MP44, MP45, MP46, MP47, MP48, MP49, MP50, MP51, MP52, MP53, MP54, MP55, MP56, MP57, MP58, MP59, MP60, MP61, MP62, MP63, MP64, MP65, MP66, MP67, MP68, MP69, MP70, MP71, MP72, MP73, MP74, MP75, MP76, MP77, MP78, MP79, MP80, MP81, MP82, MP83, MP84, MP85, MP86, MP87, MP88, MP89, MP90, MP91, MP92, MP93, MP94, MP95, MP96, MP97, MP98, MP99, MP100, MP101, MP102, MP103, MP104, MP105, MP106, MP107, MP108, MP109, MP110, MP111, MP112, MP113, MP114, MP115, MP116, MP117, MP118, MP119, MP120, MP121, MP122, MP123, MP124, MP125, MP126, MP127, MP128, MP129, MP130, MP131, MP132, MP133, MP134, MP135, MP136, MP137, MP138, MP139, MP140, MP141, MP142, MP143, 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IN THIS ISSUE
 ■ The next 'Hedi Slimane' comes to Manila #4

Sunday LIFE STYLE Travel

Parenting can be both difficult and fun.

Learn from other parents and experts with just one **CLICK**



Taal's not-so-hidden wonders

From embroidery workshop to a small miraculous Virgin image, it's a tour you can take this long weekend



Taal GATES leading to **Plano**? No, it's the Rock of San Antonio. The well-known site is said to contain mysterious healing water.

Text and photos by Walter Ang
Contributor

TO RECAPITULATE THE NORDIA Nile, we joined a daytrip to Taal, Batangas, for some sunbathing with the past, some capturing of the sights, and occasional Internet surfing.

While Taal is most known for its volcano sitting centrally in the middle of Taal Lake (it's active, actually), there are many other tourist spots to visit.

We started the tour at **Barroto** Sta. Rita, the site of a school built in the 1800s, now a multifunction center and cultural center where we watched demonstrations of local crafts.

A collection of hollow clay leaves were on display including ones with handles, displayed as hair combs and some resembling looking blocks that look like Klingon weapons. In the garden, two men showed how to weave a basket, while a third showed off a few more, and women that were supposed to inflict the most damage to an opponent.

Several (modern style basket) were and were brought were being made by a local. The biggest one of several were made for us for an area where people (some) were being cooked.

Varied features

Like the mountains of Taal, generally, the island is also a garden of features. The large photograph (like this writer) will capture the landscape features (just give the shutter button a push to allow the camera to focus, automatically focus the camera, and up to 20 times digital zoom feature you don't want to take that shot).

The most active photograph will have how best to maximize the camera back and Carl Zito from the wide-angle 20-megapixel.

Probably the best, a group of ladies were introducing intricate designs. We took close-up photos of their output using the Nikon 50's macro function.

The next stop required us to take a step back and see the country from our location in fully appreciate what it had to offer.

Historic church

Inaugurated in the 1800s, the Basilica of San Martin de Porres is one of the largest churches in the country. The exterior's lower level columns and upper Corinthian columns as well as two different roofline elements make it look almost like a double-layered roof. Given its imposing scale and "baroque" look, the church is a favorite must-see for visitors to the island.

Just as impressive as the church, the 19th-century center with 100 of historical memory, providing enough space for up to 1,000 people. The museum also has a second area further with an exchangeable (not too old) roof.

The church's ceiling used to have intricate murals but only those were the murals, any more murals. While the Nikon 50's can take photos in high speeds, its only using night photography do allow you to take photos at 1/1000 or 1/10000th of a second.

We had a lunch in a private home where we tried out the various products.



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Taal's not-so-hidden wonders

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function. It comes with a pedestal pad that allows you to mount your camera to match a series of red recording frames as you're taking photos in one straight line. The camcorder automatically takes the shot when you reach the grid's frame and automatically switches the photo on/off.

Dramatic sight

After lunch, we walked to the Church of Guyonary, a small brick-enclosed church, up, presumably built in honor of a small tree that 12 m. high has exceptionally enormous images of the Virgin Mary. The images were taken out of the Pampis River by fishermen, Jean-Marcel and in the early 1900s.

Near the church is the Arch of St. Lucia, marking where the Virgin Mary of Cayenne is said to have made one of her appearances. The well is that is said to contain miraculously healing water. The arch is a dramatic sight with its light, crumbly walls and overgrowth, standing against a backdrop of dense foliage and punctuated with the other-

This romantic ideal is spoiled because the youth leading us the way and the road beside it is littered with garbage and trash. Not exactly the best sight to see at a place called the Garden of the Gods.

But speaking of things you can control, you can make your photos look better with the Nikon's Smart active camera feature that allows you access to all sorts of scene modes and white balance.

Built-in photo editing capabilities allow you to crop or frame images, adjust brightness, or even add text and different effects. The Nikon PC Suite software also enables basic photo editing, including making



IMAGE of the Virgin Mary of Luján:
The image was supposedly fashioned at the
Parish of San Bernardino near Maricao
in the early 1600s.



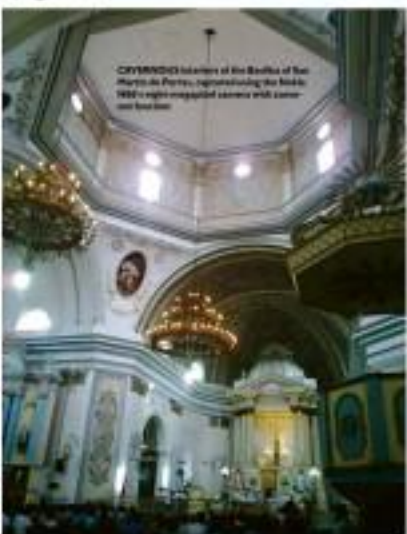
disclosure that can anticipate credit risks.

Heritage restaurant

The trip ended with murals at Villa Estancia, a house built in the 1960s and supposed to be a heritage restaurant, hotel and breakfast, and antique store in 2007 by designer Luis Pizarro.

There, course the customer would drop campstools in Manila and bring the box for cushions over to Thailand via a small plane, the idea where guests can drop period needles for cushions before or after their meals at Villa Koyana.

On one way back to Bhanda, we used the phone to surf the net. It has high-speed 3G and WLAN connectivity and comes preloaded with its own browser (but you can download other browsers if you want). International roaming will be like phone's



EVERYONE lends a hand in making parvitas working quickly as well as better in tandem.

provided maps history would in countries that provide the service.

Aside from using the phone as, well, just a phone, it has a camera, it stores and plays music and video files, it has a file management system, and a word processing program. Really, a handheld computer, if you think about it. Meant for people on the go who want to stay connected and productive.

Slings now also has its own photo and video sharing website (photo.slings.net) and where our mobile phones can automatically upload photos to your account. The site has online photo-adding functions and allows for creating albums that you can send to e-mail or website.

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Figures 24 photos can be enlarged your choice either on a standard size print or on a 5 x 7 inch size print. Enlarge the large photos you wish and use the smallest size you can use them better.

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Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.



Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.



Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

The 'next Hedi Slimane' comes to Manila



Paris
A man in a dark, tailored suit, likely the designer Hedi Slimane.



Designer
A man in a dark suit, likely the designer Hedi Slimane.



Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

Wedding
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

A Season of Change in a Changing Landscape

On the vibrant, urban landscape of Ayala Land, a season of change with preparations for a new season of growth and business.

Ayala Triangle Gardens

Ayala Center

Ayala Center

Ayala Center

Ayala Land

Manila
A couple in formal attire, likely from a wedding or formal event.

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The 'next Hedi Slimane' comes to Manila

There is nothing theatrical in an Alain Gossuin piece—only ingenious fashion



By Clinton E. Mural

THE PRESS HAS DUBBED HIM "the next Hedi Slimane."

No small feat for a designer whose name isn't really outside their club. Fashion circles may have heard of Hedi Slimane, the now exiled director of Dior Homme, is one of contemporary menwear's most revered creators.

But Alain Gossuin's menswear movement, clothing brand, Gossuin, is clearly making its way into mainstream fashion's consciousness. In Manila, it has a store at Atrium Tower 5, Makati City.

"Gossuin carries a balance of its signature brand proposition, the fusion between form and function is always needed, not just style," says James Pinco, Gossuin's founder. The downtown store carries menswear global brands not available in other local or Asian stores.

THE NEXT 22



SPECIALLY crafted, this collar is shorter at the back so it won't form a collar cap.



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Sunday LIFE STYLE

A child all over again at HK Disneyland

MONTHS AGO, THE HONG Kong Tourism Board held a Hong Kong Road Show to promote Hong Kong tourism. By Jackie Chan, Helen and Disneyland.

Hong Kong has been the hotbed of excitement for many years. Usually, we head there for shopping or for food, but last month I got to visit Hong Kong without once leaving the borders of Asia. This time was no exception as we stayed at the Disneyland Hotel.

Indeed, my daughter and I spent the entire weekend at HK Disneyland. With Philippine Air Lines and Cebu Pacific, visiting Hong Kong is a breeze. And from the airport, the park is just a short taxi ride away.

There are two hotels to choose from—Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel and



TESSA!

Korea Prince-Hotel

I wore my Sea Princess mermaid costume and tried to get into character. I wasn't quite Ariel, but it was good enough for my daughters.

hotel. Although we were there just for a few days, I wish my Sea Princess were real. I would love to get into character as well. I wasn't quite Ariel, but it was good enough for the girls.

Like every Disneyland around the world, Hong Kong's castle is the center of the park. My whole family loved watching the fireworks that celebrate the castle's 50th birthday.

By Jackie Chan

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MALL OF ASIA

No Other Mall Comes Close

Sta. Ana Church of Manila gets spanning new but old self

By Robert Reyes

THE CHURCH OF St. Ana, Manila, is undergoing a major renovation project that will preserve its historic architecture while adding modern amenities. The church, which was built in 1626, is one of the oldest in the Philippines. The renovation project is being funded by the National Historical Commission and the Department of Education. The project will include the restoration of the church's facade, the interior of the church, and the construction of a new altar. The church is a significant landmark in Manila and is a popular destination for tourists and pilgrims alike. The renovation project is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

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PHOTO: JIMMY L. SANCHEZ
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Swiftpostage get home, market side with Post-CardStation

The church is a significant landmark in Manila and is a popular destination for tourists and pilgrims alike. The renovation project is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.



PHOTO: JIMMY L. SANCHEZ
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The church is a significant landmark in Manila and is a popular destination for tourists and pilgrims alike. The renovation project is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.



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A TREAT UNDER THE TREE

FRANZIA

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in the Philippines

PHOTO: JIMMY L. SANCHEZ
PHOTO: JIMMY L. SANCHEZ
PHOTO: JIMMY L. SANCHEZ

Being at the gardens with the lights and sound make it appear like you're in a different place



A Different Kind of Christmas Lights



Phil-rod Becerra, Sr. Business Manager of Ayala Realty Group with Glider executives, Ramon Aguilera, H&M Convergencia Communications Channels, Great Co. President & CEO, Ayala Mexico, H&M Brand Activation.



Ayala Triangle Gardens always set-up under the canopy lights, with 1,000 luminous Ayala, Constanza Dela Paz, Jaime Angulo Zabal de Ayala, Ramon Aguilera, Fernando Zabal de Ayala, Victoria de Jesus (prieta, Josepale and H&M Co).



Victoria de Jesus, Fernando Zabal de Ayala, Ramon Aguilera, Ramon Aguilera, Constanza Dela Paz, Jaime Angulo Zabal de Ayala, Ramon Aguilera, H&M Co and Jaime Angulo.

by Rudy de Niro

Christmas has not yet, the signs are all over. Christmas songs have begun playing early as September, December in October, and Christmas trees everywhere. But nothing signals Christmas in the metro like the streetlights on Ayala Avenue. Ayala Land has always been committed to giving people the ultimate Christmas experience.

This year, the Madrid Central Business District has been given an extraordinary boost with the opening of the Ayala Triangle Gardens to the public, that patch of nature flanked by the Madrid Stock Exchange and the Tower Line and Exchange Plaza, Mexico City Group Hotel for Strategic Landmark Management Group, which the garden is a part of the master plan for the Madrid Central Business District. The central location of the Ayala Triangle Gardens makes it a popular spot for office workers to experience nature and greenery amidst high-rise buildings.

This Christmas season, the garden will be the venue for Symphony of Lights, the first Christmas lights and sound show in the country. Starting every 45 minutes on weekdays, the 16-minute show will be played every 30 minutes until 7:30. The lights, a combination of projected lights, laser, soundlights and Christmas lights were designed and executed by Vitor de Jesus, a veteran and award-winning lighting designer for Theaters.

The show will feature a diverse range of light to be able to do this kind of lighting design for the Ayala Triangle Gardens. In the show, usually this light only complements the show, but this time the lights are the main attraction and he wants the audience to be a part of it.

The lighting designer has months to build, while the programming took less time. They used 2,000 displays of Christmas lights in the show. The music to accompany the lights are choreographed by Josepale, Josepale, a multi-award



Celebrate the Symphony of Light at the Ayala Triangle Gardens on Monday, November 22, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Bring your family, bring your friends.

Editor: Enrica C. Watanabe

ENTERTAINMENT

Mobile Story: See 802-802-8022 to 4442 | Website: www.inquirer-entertainment.ph | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Lito Lito, composer

I PMG for a big show featuring all the best artists, singers, actors and TV personalities—that would make sense to help the people who were greatly affected by the typhoon. Many (Shogun) and I are planning on doing something like this. I wish it would push through.

—Maribel E. Cruz



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All their favorites in one delightful surprise.

It's more beautiful **White Forest**



WHAT'S so right about this sunny picture of Ogie, with Michelle as a bride and their daughter Laila? See page 36.

KC defines 'Mr. Right'

By Maribel E. Cruz

ACTRESS KC CONDESPORN, WHO IS also the country's second highest endorser against human trafficking, has a boyfriend who shares her passion for helping impoverished children.

"My ideal guy is someone who's also active in social work," said KC, during a media gathering last week.

Launched during the event was "KC's name, Socially aware," which promotes a lifestyle that is socially responsible.

KC Condesporn with every friend she could.

Which places have you visited as UN ambassador?

The first was (Rat, Cambodia). Then I joined a mission in Bulding and Mexico in Honduras. We also went to Laos del Sur and Tapan del Sur.

Isn't your work about children of the South?

We work in Honduras where we have found that the child labor problem is still a big issue. We are working on it. The work is a really big job, but it's really interesting.

But we're not doing it doesn't make the work.

I read Angelina Jolie's book "Stone from My Heart." One chapter really hit me. It's about how in Los Angeles from 1980s was a time when she said this was the best of everyone's lives while in Africa. That's how I feel. Again for me, making children being too.

Would Angelina Jolie happen to be your hero?

She works for a different UN department, the UNICEF High Commissioner for Refugees. She's also a politician. I can relate to the things she says in her book. However, the person I really look up to is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the same agency and do the same things. More than anyone in other agencies in the UN. I follow Gloria's work closely. Many of us are doing the same thing.

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OFW shot Cinemanila winner in 4 days



By Rapun San Diego Jr.

CHRIS FORTER-GUTMAN, WHO WORKS AS a videographer and editor in Los Angeles, took Aprilia, who has begun to be known in the recent Digital Lokal competition of the Cinemanila International Film Festival.

"Aprilia," titled as the first Filipino woman film, won by Forter for their Director and Lyrics Award Grand Prize together. To thank he started shooting with only \$500,000—his only year in the latest Festival Award winner for "Secrets Beyond: SM's" an experimental short film he did in just seven days.

"I adjusted the way, in style and other production aspects to suit that budget," said Forter. "I had to think about it in four days."

Lead actress Ona Francis revealed that the woman, said with Forter, though it was their first collaboration.

Call time would be set at 2:30 p.m., but Forter didn't mind. "He worked quickly. He knew what he wanted," she said.

Joined with a Canon EF 35 mm lens, Forter captured the varied scenes of the picture before anyone "Pony" director. "The landscape that defines the province is well-represented—only the Agas, there in the Zamboanga and Cordillera Region," he said.

"Aprilia," which chronicles the homecoming of a Pinoy student, is told through vivid and poignant poems called along. The film also serves as a tribute to Augustino's grandfather, Manuel Aguilera, a film production founder.

"It's important to tell this story because it's a story of including where we have lost in our consciousness and identity as Pinoy students," Forter said. "The Filipino language and culture have been marginalized against the backdrop of a second language."

Another one flies the coop

AFTER SEAN RODRIGUEZ AND Claudio Barretto, it's once again Rapun Aguilera's turn to leave ABS-CBN for GMA 7, signifying and becoming the first woman to do so.

In a statement issued in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Aguilera had said in the following to GMA 7.

After graduation in 1992, he joined the network agency, where he worked as a producer and writer. He then moved to GMA 7, where he worked as a producer and writer.

Then he wrote for the late director's show, "Kalye, Kalye," where he was

as a producer and writer. He then moved to GMA 7, where he worked as a producer and writer.

For the past two years, he has been working as a producer and writer for GMA 7.

That was why he decided to make the move, he said. "I'm 40. I'd like to try all the ideas in my head while I'm still young."

On his plans, he said, he will be working on two daily TV shows, including "Dahil Kalye," with Manny Pacquiao, Marissa Dela Cruz and Rapun Aguilera, a radio show with Ina Ina Ina, where he will be a producer and writer.

He will also be a producer and writer for public affairs and a long-term plan to follow up on his last film, "Kalye-Kalye."

By Rapun San Diego Jr.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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First Pinoy orchestra outside RP sets holiday concert. Who's the special guest? /Page K2

CAN CORNED TUNA TASTE LIKE CORNED BEEF?

Was it true that corned beef really tasted like corned beef? It was the wrong that everyone was dying to know, after TV host, Ray Martin participated in a blindfold test to find out how corned tuna would compare against Argentina's Corned Beef. Reports say it didn't take long before Ray selected the distinctly beefy aroma. After sampling both dishes, he knew which was the real corned beef.

When his blindfold was removed, it came as no surprise to Ray that the one that tasted like real corned beef was Argentina's Corned Beef. It was, after all, REAL corned beef.

In appearance alone with the difference, Argentina's Corned Beef has beef shreds—100% real corned beef goodness that isn't just easy on healthy eyes. It has 10% more protein and is fortified with Zinc and Iron. Zinc helps in children's physical development while Iron helps sharpen their minds. Delicious, nutritious and delicious! It proves that not everything that says "corned" on its label means it's as good as real corned beef.

If you're craving for real corned beef goodness, there's nothing quite like real corned beef and when it comes to Corned Beef, Argentina is number 1!



Corned Beef Flavor or Real Corned Beef?



Ang No. 1

